

Gregor Ackermann House
(Chapline Street Row Historic District)
2319 Chapline Street
Wheeling
Ohio County
West Virginia

HABS No. WV-189

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WVA,
35-WHEEL,
16-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

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Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

GREGOR ACKERMANN HOUSE

HABS No. WV-189

Location: 2319 Chapline Street, Wheeling, Ohio County,
West Virginia.

Present Owner: A. J. Tighe.

Present Occupant: Michelle Winkler, Karne M. Zinkus, Dale F. Fife.

Present Use: Apartments.

Significance This is one of the most elegant and richly detailed houses on Chapline Street. Designed by Edgar Wells for Dr. Gregor Ackermann in 1888, this house manifests a proliferation of architectural detail. The use of elaborate decorative embellishments affirmed the success and prominence of Dr. Ackermann in the Wheeling community.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: c. 1888. The City and County Land Book of Ohio County for 1888 stated that a building, assessed at \$6,310.00 had been added to this lot.
2. Architect: Edgar Wells.
3. Original and subsequent owners: The Ackermann House was built on the north one-half of Lot 153, Chapline and Eoff Addition of Wheeling. The following references to the Title of this lot are found in the Ohio County, West Virginia Deed Books.

1835 Deed, 25 February, recorded in Deed Book 20, page 258. John Eoff and wife to Elinor White. Five parcels of land including all of Lot 153.

1848 Deed, 19 January, recorded in Deed Book 20, page 348. Eleanor White to Helen M. Lauderback North 36' of Lot 153, Chapline and Eoff Addition.

1857 Deed, 12 October, recorded in Deed Book 42, page 566. Helen M. Lauderback to David McBriar and wife \$1,800.00 for north 36' of lot 153, Chapline and Eoff Addition

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- 1857 Deed of Trust, 12 October, recorded in Deed Book 42, page 567. David McBriar and wife to James S. Wheat \$1,500.00 Deed of Trust on the North 36' of Lot 153, Chapline and Eoff Addition.
- 1859 Deed, 9 May, recorded in Deed Book 45, page 509. David McBriar and wife to James H. Lauderback \$1,550.00 for the North 36' of Lot 153, Chapline and Eoff Addition.
- 1859 Deed, 14 May, recorded in Deed Book 44, page 347. James S. Wheat to James H. Lauderback \$5.00 for Deed of Trust on the North 36' of Lot 153, Chapline and Eoff Addition.
- 1862 Deed, 3 March, recorded in Deed Book 45, page 518. James H. Lauderback and wife to Fidelia Crane \$1,550.00 for the north 36' of Lot 153, Chapline and Eoff Addition.
- 1863 Deed, 1 February, recorded in Deed Book 46, page 176. Fidelia Crane to Albert Wait \$1,325.00 for the north 36' of Lot 153.
- 1863 Deed, 1 September, recorded in Deed Book 49, page 8. Albert Wait and wife to John S. Hobbs. \$1,400 for the north 36' of Lot 153, Chapline and Eoff Addition.
- 1866 Deed, 1 January, recorded in Deed Book 50, page 18. John L. Hobbs to Elsa Ann Rinehart \$500.00 for North 36' of Lot 153, Chapline and Eoff Addition.
- 1881 Deed, 19 July, recorded in Deed Book 71, page 253. Elsa Ann Rinehart to Gregor Ackermann \$2,500.00 for north 36' of Lot 153, Chapline and Eoff Addition.
- 1882 Deed 16 October, recorded in Deed Book 73, page 79. Gregor Ackermann and wife to Theresa Sikler \$5.00 for north 36' Lot 153, Chapline and Eoff Addition.
- 1882 Deed, 16 October, recorded in Deed Book 73, page 81. Theresa Sikler to Mary E. Ackermann (wife of Gregor) \$5.00 for north 36' of Lot 153, Chapline and Eoff Addition.
- 1927 Mary E. Ackermann died intestate on 16 December. Her husband Gregor Ackermann died 18 January 1928. She left as her sole surviving heirs-at-law their 5 children Karl, Dora Brill, Oscar W., Clara Cummins, and Ida M. Hutchison.

- 1929 Deed, 30 April, recorded in Deed Book 217, page 341. Karl Ackermann et al to William H. Schmalstieg and wife north 36' of Lot 153, Chapline and Eoff Addition.
- 1947 Deed, 31 January, recorded in Deed Book 293, page 431. William H. Schmalstieg and wife to Charles F. Tomlinson north 36' of Lot 153, Chapline and Eoff Addition.
- 1951 Deed, 20 September, recorded in Deed Book 336, page 435. Charles F. Tomlinson and wife to A. J. Tighe and wife north 36' of Lot 153, Chapline and Eoff Addition.

4. Original plans, construction, etc.: None known.
5. Alterations, additions, etc.: This house has been so completely changed that there is little that remains of its original interior. The two first floor front rooms on the north side of the building have been changed the least.

There are three apartments on the first and second floors and two apartments on the third floor. On the first floor, the south side and rear of the building have been broken up into smaller rooms to form apartments. A wooden frame addition has been added to the south rear of the building.

B. Historical Events and Persons Associated with the Building:

Dr. Gregory Ackermann was born in Prussia in 1852. He was graduated from medical school in Switzerland and came to the United States in 1880. He settled in Wheeling after marrying the daughter of a local man and quickly became known as "one of the prominent physicians of Wheeling." 1

In a local biography, History of the Upper Ohio Valley, it was said of Ackermann that "as a surgeon, he has few compeers in this region, and as a general practitioner, has the confidence of the community in a remarkable degree." 2 Ackermann was a member of the Ohio Medical Society. He and his wife lived in the house designed for them by their neighbor, Edgar Wells, until their deaths. The property remained in the hands of their children for a short time after that and then was sold out of the Ackermann family.

1. Anonymous. History of the Upper Ohio Valley, p. 203.
2. Anonymous. History of the Upper Ohio Valley, p. 204.

C. Sources of Information:

Anonymous. History of the Upper Ohio Valley. With Family History and Biographical Sketches. Madison, Wisconsin: Brant and Fuller, 1890.

Prepared by: Candace Reed
Historian
Historic American
Buildings Survey
September, 1976

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This three story brick residence of the late nineteenth century is rich in exterior detailing. It has one of the most finely preserved facades on Chapline Street.
2. Condition of fabric: Exterior moderately good; interior has been altered considerably and is in poor condition in some areas.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: Approximately thirty-three feet across the three-bay front (east) and about eighty-three feet deep. Three stories in front, two in rear.
2. Layout, shape: Basically rectangular with some projecting elements.
3. Foundation: Stone.
4. Wall construction: Red brick.
5. Structural system, framing: Wooden joists and studs.
6. Porches, stoops, bulkheads, etc.: The front steps and stoop are sandstone with six steps leading up to the level of the first floor. There is a small covered frame porch on a contemporary addition, left rear corner.
7. Chimneys: Five brick chimneys, four on the front section and one on the rear section.
8. Openings:
 - a. Doors and doorways: The front entry has a carved exterior double door of tall proportions. Each door has finely crafted panels of wood with a glass transom above. About three feet beyond the double doors is an interior door that opens onto the main entry foyer. This interior front door has a pane of fluted glass. There is another door connecting to a small third-floor balcony above the front

cornice. (See photographs for form of balcony.) The only other exterior first floor door is contemporary, serving as an entrance along the south side to the rear apartment. There is an entrance to the basement at the center of the rear of the building. Steps lead down to the entrance three feet below grade.

- b. Windows and shutters: See photographs for front windows. The north, south and west windows are more simple, usually double hung.

9. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: The front roof is a slate mansard. The roof is sloped gradually from front to rear, with a low parapet wall around the sides. The rear two story section is gabled. The roofs are covered with tar paper.
- b. Cornice, eaves: See photographs.
- c. Dormers, cupolas, towers: See photographs.

C. Description of Interior:

- 1. Floor plans: The floors, particularly the first, have been considerably altered inside. The first floor has three separate apartments and the upper floor about the same number. There is a central hall with a stairway to the right. The apartment to the right (north) of the hall has two large rooms connected by a pocketed double doorway and each room opens onto the hall. In addition it has numerous rooms to the rear. The apartment on the left has a similar arrangement but much smaller rooms. The second floor was inaccessible but has apartments opening onto a central hall, as does the third floor. The basement was inaccessible.
- 2. Stairways: The central hall stairway is a straight run. This is the only interior stair.
- 3. Flooring: Some are carpeted, others tile, while some have exposed wood.
- 4. Wall and ceiling finish: Generally plaster walls and ceilings, painted. Contemporary wall board is used in some of the remodeled areas.
- 5. Doors and doorways: Some doors and casings are original with moulded wood, dark natural finish.
- 6. Special decorative features: The fireplace mantel, front parlor right (north) apartment, first floor, is cut stone, painted, with a pointed arch over the firebox opening, a center relief design and a tile hearth.

D. Site and Surroundings:

The house fronts on Chapline Street and is the next to last house in the block before a dividing alley. There are three large trees near the street that partly conceal the facade. The house has a cast iron fence marking the front property line. There are adjacent structures in close proximity on each side (south and north). The rear yard is similar to others on the block. There is a brick garage in the rear northeast corner of the lot. It opens onto a back alley. There is a low masonry wall at the rear and along the south side rear.

Prepared by: John McCrae
Architectural Historian
Historic American
Buildings Survey
September, 1976

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey under the general direction of John Poppeliers, Chief of HABS, and Kenneth L. Anderson, HABS Principal Architect, in cooperation with the Friends of Wheeling, Inc. The measured drawings were made during the summer of 1976 under the supervision of John M. McCrae (University of Florida) with architectural technicians Mark L. Hall, Foreman, (Pennsylvania State University); Edward C. Freeman (Arizona State University); Ruthie D. Wiley (Mississippi State University); Alan G. Wilig (City College of New York); and Architectural Historian Candace Reed (George Washington University). The photographs were taken in 1977 by HABS Photographer Jack E. Boucher.

ADDENDUM TO:
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